

“That a duty of 75c. per ton would enable them to give a higher freight, and enable them to take a less quantity of down freight”; that, “on the supposition that a 75c. duty would be imposed, that we would anticipate no difficulty in getting sufficient down trade. I believe we have reasonable grounds for demanding of the United States Government the free admission of our coal, as we now grant the same to them; and failing which, a duty equal to what is charged on ours should be imposed on theirs.” Yet another witness said: “Let the Government place us on an equal footing with the United States by charging them 75c. duty per short ton, and we will give Ontario as cheap coal as she now receives; and we will be enabled thereby to command our own market, and the \$3,320,000 spent annually for coal from other countries will remain at home.” It was about time that the special legislation against our coal mining industry by the United States and the combinations of the Pennsylvania coal mining proprietors should be resented by this country. The evidence adduced before the Committee last Session proved, as he had just shown, that, if a duty was placed on American coal similar to their duty on ours, the combination of coal mining proprietors who allied themselves together for the purpose of having this duty imposed, would exert themselves for the purpose of having it taken off. The trade between Nova Scotia and Ontario was entirely one-sided. In 1865-6, Nova Scotia imported from Ontario and Quebec goods to the value of \$508,935, which, in 1876, increased to \$3,500,000, and the export from Nova Scotia to those Provinces in 1876 only amounted to \$438,000. It was, therefore, a serious question whether Nova Scotia would not have to seek another market, where it could sell its products and purchase in exchange those articles it required, instead of buying so much from these Provinces. It had been said the distance between Ontario and Nova Scotia was too great to allow of coals being shipped from the one to the other profitably, but when it was considered that England shipped coals to Quebec and to many parts of the United States, the West Indies and

San Francisco, it would be seen that the distance could not be an objection. The manufacturing interests were well protected by a duty of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., which, with the cost of transportation, insurance and other charges, in many instances equalled 25 or 30 per cent. The agricultural interests were also benefitted and protected under the existing tariff. The only industry which was not fostered was the coal trade, and it above, all others absorbed agricultural products, and manufactured and other goods, upon which duties were levied by the Dominion. The trade was a consumer and not a producer of any of these articles. The resolution which the right hon. member for Kingston brought in two Sessions ago, left out entirely any reference to the mining interests of this Dominion, but he considered it advisable to refer to them in his resolution this Session. He (Mr. MacKay) would like to know whether the policy of the Opposition was to give to that industry a fair share of incidental protection? Two classes of coal were imported, bituminous and anthracite. If a duty were placed on bituminous coal only, it would be of little value to the coal mine proprietors of Nova Scotia; its principal effect would be to increase the consumption of anthracite, as was clearly shown by the witnesses before the Committee. Were a duty charged it would be beneficial to Ontario as well as Nova Scotia, because if the latter sent coal to Ontario it would be necessary to obtain return cargoes, thus opening a large reciprocal trade between the two Provinces. It was established before the Committee already referred to, last Session, by several gentlemen who were very well informed on the subject, that coal could be shipped as far west as Toronto, and be delivered as cheaply as United States coals, provided the canal tolls were removed, a duty imposed, and return cargoes had. The only serious obstacle was the import of coal from the United States, upon which, if a duty were imposed equal to that imposed by them on Canadian coal, Nova Scotia would be enabled to supply the whole Province of Ontario, and take, as return freight, the products of that Province. He desired to have the opinion of this House on that